

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0050521-10-0

Permittee: Baker Cheese Factory Inc, N5279 County Road G, St. Cloud, WI

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Baker Cheese Factory Inc, N5279 County Road G, St. Cloud, WI

Receiving Water and Location: a wetland tributary to the Mullet River, Sheboygan River Watershed (SH03) and groundwater in the Sheboygan River Basin via land application and absorption pond seepage in Fond du Lac County

Brief Facility Description: This facility produces mozzarella cheese. This activity results in the discharge of 11,000 gallons per day of noncontact cooling water and boiler blowdown to an absorption pond via outfall 002. The on-site treatment plant discharges treated process wastewater to a wetland tributary via surface water outfall 003. Whey processing wastewater shall also contribute additional wastewater that must be treated prior to discharge to the wetland tributary. Discharge flows are approximately 0.22 million gallons per day. Currently whey processing wastewater is hauled off-site for further processing. Land application outfalls 001 and 004 are retained from the current permit to allow land application of industrial process wastewater and wastewater biosolids resulting from the wastewater treatment process. Wastewater is treated in an activated sludge process with enhanced biological phosphorus removal, consisting of an influent wetwell/lift station, selector tank, aeration basin, and membrane system for liquid/solids separation. High strength chloride wastewater is captured and diverted to a tank, and ultimately hauled to another wastewater treatment facility.

Summary of Proposed Changes: 1) Updated effluent limits for BOD₅, ammonia nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, chloride, and temperature. 2) Addition of acute and chronic whole effluent toxicity testing. 3) Addition of effluent limits to comply with limit expression requirements in ss. NR 106.07 and 205.065(7). 4) Removal of percent total solids monitoring of process washwater prior to land application. 5) Updated standard language.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5148, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Stanek, DNR, 625 E County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 424-7895, Mark.Stanek@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above named basin engineer.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above named permit drafter's address. Currently, DNR staff are working remotely and have very limited access to US mail. To ensure comments are received, the Department recommends that all comments be sent via email to the permit drafter listed in this notice. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, is accessible via e-mail by contacting the above named permit drafter's e-mail address or the above named basin engineer's e-mail during normal business hours Monday through Friday (except holidays). Note that DNR staff have limited access to permit hard copy files during this time as they are working from home, but much of the permit file is available electronically by e-mail request. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: The Reporter

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 1955, Fond du Lac, WI 54937-1955

Date Notice Issued: August 26, 2020

STREAMLINED PUBLIC NOTICE VERSION FOR NEWSPAPER

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FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

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The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be reviewed on the internet at the above web link or may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office during office hours. Information on this permit may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.